

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ANKARA 04077 281302Z

46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 NIC-01 EB-11 COME-00 AGR-20

TRSE-00 CU-04 IO-14 SNM-02 DEAE-00 DRC-01 /169 W

----- 058477

R 280951Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4305

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USCINCEUR

EUCOM

USDOCOSOUTH

CINCUSAFE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 4077

EUCOM FOR POLAD AND J-2

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, TU

SUBJECT: PRIMIN ECEVIT'S FIRST HUNDRED DAYS

SUMMARY: ECEVIT GOVERNMENT IN FIRST HUNDRED DAYS HAS

FAILED TO

CARRY THROUGH ANY MAJOR ACTION ON TURKEY'S PRESSING

PROBLEMS (ASIDE FROM CURRENT WORK ON BUDGET). WHILE

OPPOSITION NOT READY TO TRY TO UNSEAT GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC

DISILLUSIONMENT -- PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF RECENTLY INCREASED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ANKARA 04077 281302Z

PRICES -- SEEMS ON RISE. CURRENTLY COALITION THREATENED BY INTERNAL

DISPUTE, BUT ODDS SEEM BE THAT ECEVIT PREMIERSHIP WILL CONTINUE AND THAT PROBLEMS FACING IM WILL INCREASE. END SUMMARY.

1. DESPITE BOLD REFORMIST IMAGE ("ECEVIT OUR HOPE", "POPULIST ECECIT") WHICH HE PROJECTED IN 1973 CAMPAIGN, PRIMIN ECEVIT HAS NOT PRODUCED A "FIRST HUNDRED DAYS" OF VIGOROUS ACTION. INSTEAD, PASSAGE OF AMNESTY WHICH WAS TO INCLUDE THOSE CONVICTED OF COMMUNIST ACTIVITY BECAME HIS OVER-RIDING OBJECTIVE IN THIS PERIOD, AND FAILURE TO INCLUDE SUCH OFFENSES IN AMNESTY CAUSED CURRENT CRISIS IN COALITION (AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY.) IN EMPHASIZING AMNES Y, ECEVIT

SEEMS HAVE CONCENTRATED ON NEED TO HOLD LEFT WING IN REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) AWILE DISREGARDING NEED TO WIDEN PARTY'S POPULAR SUPPORT: HIS GOVERNMENT HAS NOT CARRIED OUT ANY OTHER RPP CAMPAIGN PROMISE, HAS NOT PLACED ANY GROUPS OTHER THAN LEFTIST INTELLECTUALS IN POLITICAL DEBT TO HIM, AND HAS NOT LEGISLATED ANY NEW PROGRAM WITH WIDE VOTER APPEAL.

2. ECEVIT HAS BEEN FORTUNATE SO FAR IN THAT OPPOSITION AS LAUNCHED NO SERIOUS CAMPAIGN TO UNSEAT HIM. CURRENTLY OPPOSITION IS TOO DIVIDED TO OFFER ALTERNATIVE GOVERNMENT (ALTHOUGH EF-PRESIDENT BAYAR IS SEEKING TO UNITE IT); ALSO, ITS LEADERS BELIEVE ECEVIT'S SUPPORT WILL BE WORN DOWN MORE THE LONGER HE STAYS IN OFFICE.

3. HOWEVER, CRITICAL PUBLIC REACTION IS SURFACING:

A. FOLLOWING PRICE INCREASES (WHICH ECEVIT HAD UNREALISTICALLY ILEDGED TO PREVENT), OPINION OF MANY FIXED-INCOME WAGE EARNERS RANGED FROM "ECEVIT DECEIVED US" TO "HE OUGHT TO BE HANGED". RAISING PRICE OF SUGAR WAS ESPECIALLY IMPOLITIC, REVIVING OLD RESENTMENTS AGAINST RPP FROM 1940'S, WHEN SUGAR PRICE INCREASE NEARLY SET OFF RIOTS.

B. ALTHOUGH INTELLECTUALS OF LEFT, INCLUDING STUDENTS, HAVE REMAINED FAITHFUL TO ECEVIT, THEY TOO HAVE SUFFERED A BLOW TO THEIR EXPECTATIONS. ECEVIT AND HIS LIEUTENANTS IN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ANKARA 04077 281302Z

CAMPAIGN MADE EXTRAVAGANT PROMISES ABOUT EDUCATION REFORM, SUCH AS EXPANDED ENROLLMENT, ABOLITION OF UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS, AND FREE EDUCATION FOR ALL. FIRST HUNDRED DAYS HAVE SHOWN VISIONARY NATURE OF THESE VOWS. UNIVERSITIES AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS ARE OVERCROWDED, ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS ARE BEING HELD, AND THERE WILL BE AGAIN BE LARGE NUMBERS OF STUDENTS WHO CANNOT BE ADMITTED.

C. AT SAME TIME, BUSINESS COMMUNITY HAS GROWN INCREASINGLY APPREHENSIVE ABOUT COALITION'S INTENTIONS TOWARD PRIVATE INDUSTRY, ESPECIALLY RPP'S DESIRE TO CREATE "PEOPLE'S SECTOR", WHICH HAS NEVER BEEN CLEARLY DEFINED. FACT THAT PRESIDENT KORUTURK HIMSELF RECENTLY GAVE PUBLIC ASSURANCES THAT PRIVATE SECTOR IS NOT IN DANGER SUGGESTS THESE SUSPICIONS WIDESPREAD.

4. BY CONTRAST, MINORITY COALITION PARTNER, NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY, ALREADY HAS COMPILED ACHIEVEMENTS OF INTEREST TO ITS RELIGIOUS-MINDED CONSTITUENCY: APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL CLERGY, PROVISION FOR BEGINNING MORALITY LESSONS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS, REMOVAL OF NUDE STATUE FROM ISTANBUL, AND DEPPRIMIN ERBAKAN'S EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA (FAILURE OF WHICH, THOUGH WIDELY CRITICIZED, MAY HAVE BEEN OFFSET IN EYES OF HIS SUPPORTERS BY FACT HE MADE PILGRIMAGE TO MECCA AND MEDINA). HOWEVER, THESE ACTIONS ARE PART OF PRICE PAID BY ECEVIT FOR HOLDING COALITION TOGETHER, AND ARE EMBARRASSMENT IN TERMS OF HIS PARTY'S SECULARIST PRINCIPLES.

5. STRAINS WITHIN COALITION, INEXPERIENCE OF CABINET, LACK OF WELL-DEVELOPED ACTION PROPOSALS BASED ON PLATFORM PROMISES, AND GOVERNING PARTIES' GENERAL UNPREPAREDNESS TO ENTER GOVERNMENT THIS YEAR PROBABLY ALL CONTRIBUTED TO MAKING UNDISTINGUISHED RECORD. HOWEVER, THESE DISADVANTAGES MIGHT HAVE BEEN ALLEVIATED BY MORE SKILLFUL LEADERSHIP: AND IN ANY EVENT, ECEVIT'S EMPHASIS ON AMNESTY BLOCKED GIVING ATTENTION TO OTHER PROBLEMS.

6. ECEVIT AT THIS POINT REMAINS UNDISPUTED LEADER OF RPP, IN WHICH, BY STRIKING CONTRAST WITH NSP, PARLIAMENTARY DISCIPLINE IS EXCELLENT. PRESUMABLY, IF HIS POLITICAL PERFORMANCE DOES NOT IMPROVE, MOVEMENT AGAINST HIM WITHIN PARTY WILL GAIN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 ANKARA 04077 281302Z

STRENGTH. HOWEVER, FOR TIME BEING, PRINCIPAL THREAT TO HIS GOVERNMENT'S EXISTENCE IS CURRENT DISPUTE BETWEEN COALITION PARTNERS OVER NSP'S FAILURE TO SUPPORT RPP'S AMNESTY PROPOSAL IN FULL. THIS DISPUTE PROBABLY CAN BE KEPT FROM DESTROYING COALITION IF ERBAKAN -- WHO CLEARLY WANTS TO REMAIN IN OFFICE -- CAN ESTABLISH DISCIPLINE IN NSP (ANKARA 4062). NEXT MAJOR TEST OF COALITION'S COHESION MAY BE "FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND CONSCIENCE BILL" (SEE BELOW).

7. EVEN BREAKUP OF COALITION WOULD NOT NECESSARILY MEAN END OF ECEVIT'S PREMIERSHIP UNLESS OPPOSITION FINDS WAY TO UNITE. CURRENT GOVERNMENT PROBABLY WOULD BE ASKED TO STAY ON IN CARE-TAKER CAPACITY, WHICH MIGHT CONTINUE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. WITH HIS PARLIAMENTARY PLURALITY, ECEVIT WOULD HAVE CHANCE TO FIND ANOTHER COALITION PARTNER OR, IF ALL COALITION FORMULAS FAILED, TO FORM

A MINORITY GOVERNMENT.

8. ON ASSUMPTION ECEVIT WILL NOT LEAVE PREMIERSHIP NOW,
MOST SERIOUS PROBLEMS HE WILL FACE IN NEXT FEW MONTHS INCLUDE:

A. POSSIBILITY OF TURKISH-GREEK CONFRONTATION OVER AEGEAN
OIL CLAIMS IF, AS PLANNED, TURKEY NEXT MONTH BEGINS OIL
EXPLORATION IN AREA ALSO CLAIMED BY GREECE.

B. GRADUALLY RISING LEVEL OF STUDENT VIOLENCE, WHICH WAS
AMONG FACTORS IMPELLING MILITARY INTERVENTIONS OF 1960 AND 1971.

C. WORSENERD UNEMPLOYMENT AND INFLATION, WHICH ARE
LIKELY TO CUT HEAVILY INTO ECEVIT'S POPULARITY AND CREDIBILITY.

D. DECISION ON RESUMPTION OF OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION,
WHICH INVOLVED RISK OF U.S. COUNTERACTION AND LITTLE
DOMESTIC POLITICAL REWARD BUT IS ISSUE THAT OPPOSITION PROBABLY
WOULD NOT LET ECEVIT DUCK.

9. MEANWHILE, MAJOR LEGISLATIVE MEASURE IN PREPARATION BY
GOVERNMENT IS "FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND CONSCIENCE BILL",
WHICH IS PRIMARILY EFFORT TO OVERCOME FAILURE TO INCLUDE
OFFENSES INVOLVING COMMUNISM IN AMNESTY. OTHER UPCOMING
BILLS ARE SAID TO CONCERN SIZABLE WAGE INCREASES IN STATE ECONOMIC
ENTERPRISES, RPP'S "VILLAGE CENTER" (KOY KENT) PLAN, "PEOPLE'S
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 ANKARA 04077 281302Z

SECTOR", MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE, SEVERANCE PAY, HIGHER
INCOMES FOR FARMERS, LOWERING VOTING AGE TO 18, NATIONALIZATION
OF BORAX AND LIGNITE DEPOSITS, REDUCTION OF RESERVE OFFICERS'
COMPLUSORY MILITARY SERVICE TO THREE MONTHS, AND IMPROVED
INCOMES AND CONDITIONS FOR CIVIL SERVICE. THESE MEASURES,
IF PASSED, MIGHT HELP WIN SUPPORT FOR RPP, BUT PERHAPS NOT
ENOUGH TO OFFSET DISCONTENT OVER RISING COST OF LIVING.

10. AS TO NEXT HUNDRED DAYS, WE WOULD WITH SOME RESERVATIONS
FORECAST ECEVIT'S CONTINUATION AS HEAD OF EITHER COALITION
OR CARETAKER GOVERNMENT, WHILE GROWTH OF PUBLIC DISCONTENT
AND SERIOUS PROBLEMS MENTIONED ABOVE APPEAR VIRTUALLY
CERTAIN TO PLAGUE GOVERNMENT. IF OPPOSITION UNITES, IT
MIGHT WELL SEEK TO BRING GOVERNMENT DOWN.

1. CONSULATE GENERALS AT ISTANBUL AND IZMIR CONTRIBUTED TO THIS
REPORT.
SPAIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COALITION GOVERNMENT, AMNESTY, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ANKARA04077
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740133-0445
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740515/aaaaandz.tel
Line Count: 219
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAY 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <30-Sep-2002 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIMIN ECEVIT'S FIRST HUNDRED DAYS SUMMARY: ECEVIT GOVERNMENT IN FIRST HUNDRED DAYS HAS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, TU, (ECEVIT, BULENT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005